

AmeriCorps

Partnerships for Student Achievement places AmeriCorps members at schools in Washington County. Members provide tutoring and supplemental education services to elementary and high school students who face challenges such as limited English proficiency, special needs, and lack of engagement in school. In 2013, 20 full-time AmeriCorps members engaged more than 800 elementary school students in a research-based tutoring program and improved academic performance for 75 percent of the children they served. They tutored 1,080 high school students and increased the academic achievement for 97.6 percent of those students. AmeriCorps members also created and led afterschool programming and engaged 785 volunteers in more than 5,800 hours of service to local school.

AmeriCorps NCCC

The Elkton Community Education Center provides multigenerational activities to promote the environment, education, culture, and social enterprise for a small rural community. AmeriCorps NCCC teams working with the center created community gardens that serve as sustainable and local fresh food sources, provide teaching tools for youth, and offer an outlet for local growers. AmeriCorps members also planted 2,582 vegetable plants and 32 herb plants into three different gardens. Additionally, the team cleared 1,400 pounds of weeds from eight acres of the Tree Park, removed weeds, and mulched 552 trees throughout the park and orchard.

AmeriCorps VISTA

The 13 member AmeriCorps VISTA project at Oregon Campus Compact enables colleges and universities to fight poverty through service, build lasting partnerships, and empowers students to be change agents. In North Portland's Roosevelt High School, 57 percent of students graduate on time, 11 percent behind the state average. University of Portland is less than two miles away and hosts a VISTA member who is serving to help close this achievement gap. The Writing Center serves as a campus hub which allows students to connect with their neighborhood. Keying in on this connection, the VISTA member designed a writing consultant program for college students to advise and mentor students in writing assignments, job applications, and essays. Twenty volunteer writing consultants were recruited and provided one-on-one writing consultations to 100 Roosevelt students, giving much-needed tools to succeed in high school and beyond.

Senior Corps

Clackamas County Social Services serves as sponsor to two Senior Corps projects in Oregon. Both RSVP and Senior Companion projects have identified hunger as a primary community need affecting community residents as well as the volunteers. Volunteers hesitate to take resources, so a unique approach was developed to increase access through opportunities to serve with food distribution and nutritional outreach stations. Numbers rose to 203 RSVP serving in these locations. For the 30 Senior Companions and their 150 clients, staff bring extra food boxes to in-service training and discuss food access, managing nutrition, and chronic diseases. They also co-sponsored the Senior Hunger Forum called, "Hidden In Plain Sight" to bring awareness to senior hunger issues.